

## Message Text

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DEPT PLS PASS NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE,  
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA, FOR WILLIAM KNOX AND DEAN SMITH

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, US, FR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF NTIS-BNIST PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF  
TECHNICAL REPORTS

1. SUMMARY. THE OFFICE OF THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER HAS REQUESTED THE SEVERAL FRENCH TECHNICAL AGENCIES SUPPORTING RESEARCH IN THE ENERGY FIELD TO COOPERATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TECHNICAL INFORMATION DATA SYSTEM. BNIST WILL COORDINATE THE AGENCIES INVOLVED AND DOCUMENTATION FRANCAISE WILL PROVIDE THE CLEARING HOUSE FUNCTION. BNIST PLANS TO USE NTIS AS A MODEL IN ITS DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRENCH INFORMATION SYSTEM AND WHEN DEVELOPED HOPES TO HAVE MUCH CLOSER COOPERATION WITH NTIS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CABINET OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN MID-NOVEMBER INSTRUCTED THE DGRST AND THROUGH IT THE SEVERAL CIVILIAN TECHNICAL AGENCIES TO WORK WITH BNIST (NATIONAL OFFICE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION) AND DOCUMENTATION FRANCAISE (THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING AGENCY) IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TECHNICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD COVER ALL WORK SUPPORTED THROUGH GOVERNMENT FUNDS AND MAKE THE RESULTS OF THAT WORK AVAILABLE TO OTHERS (PRESUMABLY WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT) ON A COMPLETE AND TIMELY BASIS. JACQUES MICHEL, DIRECTOR OF BNIST, RECENTLY EXPLAINED TO EMBASSY SCICOUN THAT

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THIS DIRECTIVE PROVIDED A STRONG IMPULSE TO ORGANIZE

FRENCH TECHNICAL INFORMATION BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE DIRECTIVE WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COVER THE COSTS OF DEVELOPING THE SYSTEM. MICHEL BRIEFLY SKETCHED OUT A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD COVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, EMPLOY LATEST COMPUTER AND VISUAL AID TECHNIQUES AND EVENTUALLY INCLUDE COMPUTER TRANSLATIONS OF ABSTRACTS AND KEY WORDS (NOT TITLES) INTO ENGLISH AND GERMAN. BNIST WOULD PROVIDE THE COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE IN DEVELOPING THE SYSTEM AND DOCUMENTATION FRANCAISE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTUAL OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM.

3. UNDER THE CURRENT SCHEDULE, MICHEL THOUGHT THAT COOPERATION WITH NTIS TO INCLUDE CONTRIBUTING ABSTRACTS OF FRENCH TECHNICAL REPORTS IN ENGLISH TO NTIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BEFORE 1978. HE BELIEVED IT TO BE NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT TO FRANCE AND THE FRENCH INFORMATION SYSTEM TO HAVE SUCH A LINK WITH NTIS BUT, PRINCIPALLY DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS, HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE ANY EARLIER THAN 1978.

4. EMBASSY SCICOUN INDICATED THAT BNIST MIGHT CONSIDER HAVING NTIS DEFRAY SOME OF THE COST OF TRANSLATION, PERHAPS THROUGH REDUCTION IN THE ANNUAL MICROFICHE SERVICE FEE FOR THE FIRST YEAR OR TWO UNTIL THE FRENCH SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED AND OPERATING AND COULD PROVIDE COMPUTER TRANSLATED ABSTRACTS. MICHEL FOUND THIS PROSPECT ATTRACTIVE AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS IT WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO (BY MID-DECEMBER) IN HIS COORDINATING GROUP AND IF THERE WAS SUFFICIENT INTEREST WOULD SO ADVISE THE EMBASSY.

5. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT AND NTIS OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.  
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